

## **Further re-opening of HGSS to students FAQs**

**Last updated – 29 January 2021**

### **Contents**

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Is it safe to come to school? .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Who is eligible to attend school?.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What are the expectations around attendance? .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Social Distancing.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Handwashing &amp; Respiratory Hygiene .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cleaning .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sharing resources &amp; IT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What is the policy on symptoms and testing? .....</b>	<b>4</b>

### **Introduction**

Schools were asked to close by the Government from 4 January 2021 in order to contribute to breaking the transmission of COVID19. At this time there is no firm date for a date to reopen.

During this time our students will receive high quality online teaching and our provision for the children of critical workers and children who are vulnerable will be accommodated in school to follow the same online learning as their peers who remain at home.

We hope that you find the information below helpful. If you need any further support or information, please contact us on: [office@hgss.co.uk](mailto:office@hgss.co.uk)

### **Is it safe to come to school?**

We are currently providing on site learning to the children of critical workers and children who are deemed vulnerable. Lateral Flow Testing is carried out weekly on staff and students to identify any asymptomatic cases. The usual precautions of social distancing, face coverings and hand sanitising are also being strongly enforced.



## **Who is eligible to attend school?**

### **Critical Worker Students**

If a parent has a job that meets the critical worker definition - for example they are a delivery driver, work in food production/retail, transport or banking, or are an employee of the NHS or a care home, your child can come to school each day and learn in the Critical Worker School we operate.

Full list of critical worker jobs here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

### **Vulnerable Students**

Students who have child protection or child in need plans, social services involvement, or who live in care can all come to school and attend the Critical Worker School as well. Similarly, if your child is becoming depressed or anxious from being off school for a long period, or is unable to effectively complete distance learning, it is likely they will meet the designation for vulnerable and be able to attend. We do have a finite capacity to this provision as a result of social distancing and staffing. We therefore ask for this to be used appropriately.

Parents / carers who think their child may be eligible under this category should contact [office@hgss.co.uk](mailto:office@hgss.co.uk) so we can direct their query.

## **Students with Special Education Needs**

Any student with an EHCP plan or broader SEN needs can attend school through this period, again please email [office@hgss.co.uk](mailto:office@hgss.co.uk).

## **What are the expectations around attendance?**

All students are expected to attend all lessons, whether they are in school or learning at home. Attendance at all lessons is carefully monitored. If a student is unwell or cannot attend lessons for any other reason parents should contact [attendance@holmer.org.uk](mailto:attendance@holmer.org.uk)

If your child is eligible to come into school at this time, they are able to attend every day. Please ensure a booking form is completed weekly so that we can plan for the number of students expected each day.

## **Social Distancing**

Students in school at this time will be socially distanced in classrooms whilst undertaking their learning. Break and lunchtimes are spent in the Dining Hall with social distancing being monitored by staff. Staff and students are expected to wear face coverings at all times when not sitting in their classroom or the Library.

## **Handwashing & Respiratory Hygiene**

The virus can spread via direct transmission (close contact with someone who coughs or sneezes) or indirect transmission (touching contaminated surfaces). If we maintain distancing, never share resources, regularly wash hands and thoroughly clean all surfaces multiple times each day, it means we can prevent and control the spread of the virus within our school.

### **What facilities will be available to ensure my child can wash their hands regularly?**

There are portable sanitising stations available at each entrance to the School which staff and students must use; we also have stations available in key areas of the building and outside each classroom in use. There are also hand washing facilities available in all toilets.

All staff will be promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach. Visual posters are displayed around the building to remind students of these hygiene practices and every lesson will start with a reminder of key safety points. When they first return to school, each student will receive an extended induction about virus control.

### **Will there be PPE available?**

We have gloves, masks, visors and aprons available for staff. This means if a teacher/staff member did need to attend to a student in an emergency, they would be able to wear PPE.

## **Cleaning**

### **How often will classrooms be cleaned?**

Classrooms will be fully cleaned prior to opening every day, they will also be sanitised after sessions with bins being monitored and changed if used.

All doors and common touch points in communal spaces will be sanitised everyday with more common areas like Reception, etc. where handles will be sanitised multiple times throughout the day. Doors will be wedged open where practical to avoid the need to touch door handles.

Toilets will be cleaned fully prior to opening, and will be monitored/sanitised hourly.

## **Sharing resources & IT**

### **Will students be required to share resources such as books, pens and rulers?**

No. They must bring in their own equipment. There will be a very limited supply of equipment for a child that forgets something, but the child will then keep this piece of equipment.

### **Will students and staff be able to print?**

The printing system at HGSS requires staff/students to send their printing to a particular printer, so this will be possible.

### **Will students be able to purchase meals at school?**

At this time our catering services are not available and so students will need to bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks.

## **What is the policy on symptoms and testing?**

Students with symptoms should not come to school. They should isolate and be referred for testing with the NHS test and trace programme. The school should also be informed as a matter of urgency. If they test negative they can return, but if they are positive they and their family will need to isolate for 10 days, as directed.

Up-to-date NHS advice can be found here:

From January 2021 we have been conducting lateral flow testing on students and staff who attend school. These tests are conducted weekly. If a student or member of staff tests positive for COVID19 they will immediately be sent home to follow NHS guidance (below). Any close contacts will also be asked to leave school and to self-isolate for 10 days.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/what-to-do-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms/staying-at-home-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms/>

**How effective will students be at correctly administering these tests? Adults can struggle to perform them themselves and achieve an accurate result.**

Students will be over-seen completing the lateral flow tests. There will be posters up with what each student should do and a mirror so that they can see what they are doing. Both posters and mirrors, all have surfaces that are easy to disinfect. We have engaged in a number of webinars and with other educational institutions in the Autumn's initial trial, so the vast majority should receive an accurate result. If not the student can repeat the test.

**I accept that parents can opt their children out. However, how will this reduce the spread of this very virulent strain of Covid that was present in school prior to the holidays?**

The purpose of testing every student twice in two weeks is to isolate all asymptomatic cases of Covid that we would have not known about otherwise and therefore reduce further the possibility of spread. The vast majority of parents have already responded positively to the testing. The testing sits alongside our hand sanitizing, social distancing and face mask procedures, which we have tightened further over the Christmas break.

**How will these tests be conducted. What procedures are made for children whilst waiting for results? IE: They need to be distanced.**

The NHS have provided layouts of the rooms and facilities needed for the running of the testing programme. We have also been in contact and seen other educational institution's layouts who were part of the pilot group in the Autumn term trialling this testing.

Students in school for face-to-face learning, will have a seat to sit on whilst they wait for their result, that is at least 2m away from any other seat. The floor is marked out with arrows of where a student should go.

**How often will testing take place...daily? Weekly?**

**Just so I can explain to my year 7 Child, please can you let me know how often will the test be carried out and where in the school will he have to go to get it done?**

Testing will happen twice for each student in the first two weeks. From then on, staff and students will be tested weekly.

Testing will be completed in the Drama Studio.

**If a student is tested each week already through their part time work place. Would they need to be tested again at school or would you accept their work results?**

Information is not shared between work places as the results are confidential. We would therefore need each student to be tested in our setting. This will then support our track and trace process as each student will be tested at the same time as their peers.

**What happens with the information used from the test? Is it stored somewhere? Or once the results are confirmed are the details disposed**

**of? I saw somewhere there would be a Privacy Notice but can't see it has been issued yet!**

Information from the tests is stored on a school spreadsheet. In this way, should another student test positive we can establish when each of their closest contacts was last tested and their result. This will then allow us to work out what further action is needed.

**What happens if a child refuses consent are they allowed into the school or will they have to work from home?**

Parents/students refusing to give consent will still be able to attend school, however they will have to sit in a room separate to their peers, so that if they were to be an asymptomatic carrier they would not be able to pass it on to their peers. If they become a close contact of anyone that were to test positive, they would then have to self-isolate for the standard 10 days. Anyone who has not given consent and is showing any of the three symptoms will be sent home for a PCR test to be completed.

**If my child is concerned about doing the test can someone be there to support them?**

We will have staff available at each stage of the testing process to support students. Should there be a specific member of staff a student needs with them, we will arrange this, where possible. If the particular member of staff is not comfortable with this, then we will consult with the parent and child again.